



NSD/CES/REGISTRATION
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2009 OCT 19 AM 10:40

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UNIT**CONTACT:**

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
Information Office
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SAUDI AMBASSADOR SPEAKS ON SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS

WASHINGTON [October 15, 2009] – Today, Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir participated in the Ambassador's Roundtable at the 18th annual National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations (NCUSAR) Conference. The two-day conference is entitled, “Fresh Visions, Old Realities, New Possibilities: The Impact of Leadership Change on Arab-U.S. Relations.”

The roundtable featured Ambassador Al-Jubeir, U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Brigadier General James B. Smith, and former U.S. Ambassadors to the Kingdom Walter L. Cutler, Chas Freeman, Jr., James C. Oberwetter, and Robert Jordan.

Ambassador Al-Jubeir and Ambassador Smith emphasized the strength and importance of the Saudi-U.S. relationship, including in areas of counterterrorism, regional security and trade and investment.

“Our countries face a number of mutual challenges in the region and they work together closely to overcome them,” Ambassador Al-Jubeir said, adding “we speak to each other clearly, we consult intensely and we try to engage others in order resolve problems. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a history of seeking stability and security and peace in our region and in our world,” said Ambassador Al-Jubeir.

Ambassador Al-Jubeir noted the Arab Peace Initiative, the interfaith dialogue and the launching of the King Abdullah University for Science and Technology, a major research university, as examples of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz’s commitment to peace, dialogue, understanding, and knowledge.

Speaking on the multi-faceted nature of the Saudi-U.S. relationship Ambassador Smith said, “It’s an era of hope and opportunity...for most every challenge facing this nation [United States] there is a crossroad in Riyadh [Saudi Arabia] that we have to use. And think of the words that our President [Obama] used which were listen, respect, trust.”

On the evening of the first day of the conference Ambassador Al-Jubeir hosted a reception for all participants and guests at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington, DC.

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SAUDI ARABIA EXPANDS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON [October 15, 2009] – A National Awareness Campaign to Combat Breast Cancer has been inaugurated in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to coincide with international Breast Cancer Awareness month. The campaign is led by Princess Hessah bint Trad Al-Shaalan, the Honorary President of the Zahra Breast Cancer Association and wife of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, and Princess Rima bint Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. It officially launched on October 10.

As part of this ongoing breast cancer awareness campaign in Saudi Arabia, King Abdulaziz University (KAU) announced that it will establish the first center of excellence in the region for breast cancer. The center will perform mammograms and cooperate in research with specialized international research facilities in Geneva and the United States. It will be run by Dr. Samia Al-Amoudi, a breast cancer survivor and member of the Saudi Cancer Society.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in the Kingdom and is the number one killer of women in the region. Saudi Arabia continues to work with the global community to fight this disease. In February 2008, KAU Hospital hosted a breast cancer awareness campaign organized by the Saudi Cancer Society, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and the U.S. State Department. The campaign took place in Riyadh, Jeddah, Qassim and Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

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UNIT**Saudis Question 'Soft' Strategy Toward Militants***NPR Morning Edition*

Kelly McEvers

October 15, 2009

The audio can be heard [here](#).

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In late August, Saudi Arabia's counterterrorism chief, Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, got a call from a known al-Qaida member who had taken refuge in neighboring Yemen. The militant said he was ready to turn himself in. But he had to do it in person.

The prince sent a plane. The militant was brought to the prince's house.

Later, on Saudi state TV, the prince recounted the story to King Abdullah.

"I was in the sitting room, and he blew himself up," Prince Mohammed told the king. "Thank God nothing happened to you," the king said. "But you should have searched the man first."

"I ordered him not to be searched," the prince said.

"He was in your private home!" the king snapped back.

The king touched on the question that many in Saudi Arabia are asking since the attack: Why would the head of counterintelligence not only invite a known terrorist into his house, but then not have him thoroughly searched first?

Christopher Boucek of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace says it's because Saudi officials have taken a very personal approach to combating terrorism.

"There is [an] attitude that everybody gets a second chance: 'We as the state understand how you would have made mistakes. That said, we want to help you come back to the right way, to return you to the fold.' In order to do this, the government has to be accessible," he explains.

And it's not just about militants turning themselves in. The Saudi government also sponsors a rehabilitation center where convicted militants take classes on everything from the correct understanding of jihad to art therapy.

So far, more than a thousand former militants have graduated from the program. Most lead normal lives with cars, jobs and even wives arranged by the government.

But some have returned to the fight. Two graduates appeared in an al-Qaida video earlier this year.

Still, Saudi authorities say they refuse to change their policies — although Ministry of Interior spokesman Mansour al-Turki says officials might take more precautions the next time a militant wants to turn himself in.

The prince would still meet with a militant, Turki says, but perhaps in his office or in the ministry.

Beyond security logistics, other challenges remain. The U.S. Government Accountability Office recently released a report that said while funding for terrorism is waning inside Saudi Arabia, private Saudis still fund militants outside the country.

And, as al-Qaida members regroup in Yemen, the report said the Saudis need to do more to fortify their border.

The Saudi-Yemeni border spans hundreds of miles. Some posts are well-fortified, but that is not the case farther away from cities and towns, where there is less — and in some cases, no — control at the border.

Just this week near the Yemeni border, a group of suspected militants fired at Saudi police at a checkpoint. Officials said the men were wearing women's clothing to conceal explosive vests and were transporting more weapons in their vehicle. Police shot and killed two militants and arrested a third.

Boucek of the Carnegie Endowment acknowledges that sometimes a hard approach is necessary for the most violent militants. But the soft approach is also effective, he says, especially when dealing with impressionable young men who might have thought about committing violence but never had a chance to do it.